



MAPBD WATCHDOG

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR PURE BRED DOGS
"Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership for over fifty years"



November 9, 2015

mapbd.org

HOUSE BILL 4765

This bill allows adoption of dogs seized for animal fighting, if deemed suitable. It also provides better due process protections for the accused.

MAPBD SUPPORTS THIS BILL WITH PROBLEMATIC LANGUAGE ADMENDED:

- Problematic language throughout the proposed bill requires clarification that emphasizes the fact that the law, and this bill, allows **only law enforcement** to confiscate animals and property used in alleged animal fighting violations. Subsection 16 (page 6, line 9).
- Inconsistent language in subsections 23 and 24 (page 10, line 2 thru 16) needs to be corrected to reflect that "security deposit or bond posted" ... "**shall be returned**" in both subsections of the bill.
- Overlooked language is required to be added to subsections 23 and 24 that in addition to the "*security deposit or bond posted to prevent the dispositions of the animal*"(s) that **the animal(s) shall be return to the owner** along with other confiscated property.

MAPBD IS ENCOURAGED WITH THIS BILL IN THAT IT:

- Corrects problems in the current law which prohibits the adoption of any dog, or its progeny up to the second generation, if seized for animal fighting. Many such dogs can be safely rehabilitated to be pets.
- Provides for law enforcement, an animal control shelter, or animal protection shelter to dispose of the dog(s) by euthanasia if deemed dangerous.
- Makes provisions for adequate substantive and procedural due process for the accused. Specifically:
 - The accused is given adequate notice of the reason for seizure of the animals,
 - The accused my request a hearing to determine if the costs associated with the care of the seized animal is reasonable,
 - The accused is entitled to post a security deposit or bond for the care of the animals, preventing forfeiture and disposition of the animal(s).

MAPBD is a Michigan non-profit organization founded in 1964. MAPBD advocates responsible dog ownership and promotes fair and reasonable animal legislation in the state.

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